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Agricultural Situation

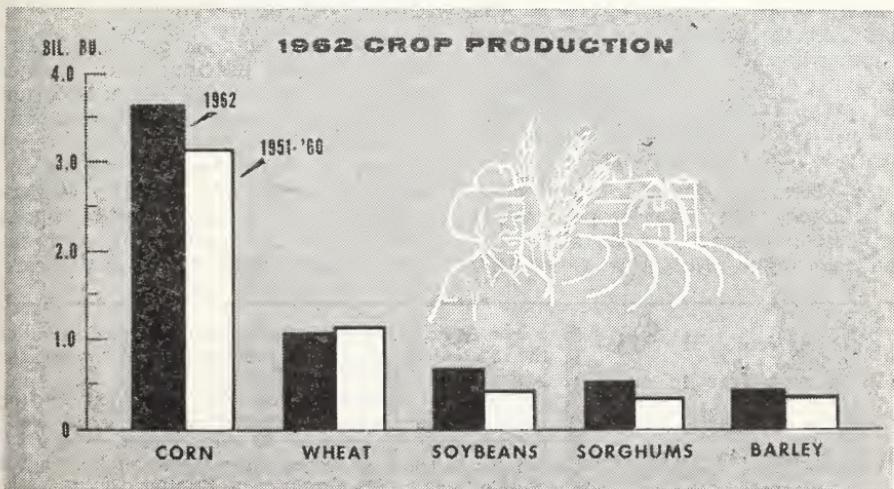
1962 CROP OUTPUT EQUALS THE 1960 RECORD

The 1962 crop season skirted along the edge of serious damage to many crops but, when it was all over, crop production had surpassed last year and equaled the 1960 record.

The "Annual Crop Summary" for 1962 revealed the story in 108 pages of words and figures released exactly at 3 p.m. on December 18.

Before we take a closer look at 1962, let's inspect some of the shifts that have taken place in the past 2 years.

First, let's compare 1962 to 1960—both record high years for total output. Food grain output dropped 16 percent and feed grains, 8 percent in the 2-year period, but these declines have been offset by record or near record production levels for hays, oil crops, cotton, tobacco, sugar crops, fruits, and vegetables. Checking the 1962 totals against the previous year, all groups of crops show increases except food grains, vegetables, and fruits and nuts.



Now let's turn the spotlight on the 1962 season:

Total crop production equaled the record despite the smallest harvested acreage of record. Yields per acre reached new peaks for many crops as favorable conditions in the Corn Belt overshadowed near drought areas spotted in the East and South. New high yields were set for corn for grain, corn silage, oats, barley, sorghum grain, sorghum silage, spring wheat, rice, peanuts, flaxseed, all hay, tobacco, and several other crops. Soybean, popcorn, and potato yields per acre were the second highest of record, while winter wheat was fourth highest.

Crops planted for 1962 harvest totaled 302 million acres, 3 percent less than last year and the lowest total planted acreage of record.

Farmers harvested only 288 million acres in 1962 which are 3 percent fewer acres than the near record low of 1961. This was an even smaller acreage than was harvested during the previous low in the drought year of 1934.

March gave promise of an early 1962 season but the first half of April was cold and wet. Warm, dry weather in late April and May speeded field work past the usual pace in most areas east of the Rocky Mountains.

High temperature in late May seared heading small grains and set back other growing crops across the southern third of the Nation. Topsoil moisture was quickly sapped, and scattered shower patterns throughout the spring and summer kept the South and East flirting with disaster all season. Damaging drought conditions spotted the area with the most serious conditions centering in eastern Pennsylvania.

The Corn Belt got off to a fast start, and timely rains kept crops growing with little damage except along the southern edge. Northern Corn Belt

States, in sharp contrast to last year, suffered from excessive moisture. Planting was delayed in the northern areas and some late crops were nipped by early frost. Humid fall weather slowed crop drying, but delayed killing freezes followed by good drying weather enabled farmers to complete harvest work on time.

The West had a slow spring and stayed cool during much of the season except in the far Southwest. Good irrigation water supplies, beneficial rains on dry land, and a favorable fall all added up to a pretty good year. Early frosts damaged some northern Mountain areas and the mid-October Pacific Coast storm dealt a blow to crop areas in western Oregon and Washington.

Total tonnage of the four feed grains increased 2 percent over 1961 as each crop set a new yield per acre record. Continuation of the Feed Grain Program was mainly responsible for lower acreages of corn and barley, while sorghum grain acreage rebounded somewhat from the sharp drop of the previous year. Oats acreage continued its long-time down trend.

The 1962 corn yield of 64.1 bushels per acre surpassed the 1961 high of 62.0 bushels. Sorghum grain yield, 44.1 bushels per acre, increased only slightly from the 43.8 bushels of last year. Adequate moisture in the Northern Plains pushed the 1962 yields of barley and oats above last year and slightly above the previous highs set in 1958.

Food grain tonnage declined 8 percent from the previous year. Lower acreage under the 1962 Wheat Program coupled with a lower yield dropped winter wheat production nearly one-fourth. A more than threefold increase in durum and a nearly 50 percent increase in other spring wheat partly offset the smaller winter wheat crop. Rice output set a new record

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and the 1962 rye crop was the largest in over 20 years.

Oilseed production increased 1 percent over 1961 as increased output of cottonseed, peanuts, and flaxseed more than offset a 1 percent smaller soybean crop.

Total hay production reached a new high, as an excellent hay year in the North Central Region more than made up for lower output in the East and South. Corn silage jumped 14 percent over the 1961 tonnage, while sorghum silage dropped off 4 percent.

Tobacco poundage totaled 10 percent above 1961 and was the largest since 1951. *Sugarbeet production* set a new record—3 percent above last year. *Sugarcane production* was expected to reach a new high until the December freezes lowered prospects in both Louisiana and Florida.

Popcorn and dry bean output fell below the 1961 level, but both crops were above average. *Dry pea production*

jumped 40 percent above the 1961 total. *Seed crop production* was 1 percent larger than last year but below average.

Potato production fell 9 percent under the record 1961 crop with declines in each seasonal group. *Sweetpotatoes* were up more than one-fifth from last year's small crop. *Fresh vegetable output* was slightly less than in 1961, but *processing vegetables* set a new high.

Noncitrus fruit crops totaled a little smaller than the previous year, while 1962 nut production fell off sharply. *Citrus prospects* for the 1962-63 season were expected to be larger than the previous year, but this estimate was made before the losses from the freezing weather in Florida in mid-December. The January 1 estimate will tell the story on how much was lost.

It all adds up to a big crop year in 1962—and many thanks to *all crop reporters* and others who helped with the crop estimating program of the Department.

B. R. Bookhout
Statistical Reporting Service

1963 ACREAGE MARKETING GUIDES

Spring Vegetables—Melons—Potatoes

USDA Acreage Marketing Guides are intended to help farmers plan production in balance with market needs. Recommendations are presented in terms of acreage changes needed in the coming season, along with the background on which the changes are based.

Sixteen *vegetables* are included in the 1963 spring guides. Growers are advised to increase their total acreage of these crops 3 percent from 1962. Last spring, weather problems were severe. Planting was hindered; delays followed. Supply shortages were common, particularly in the early spring, and prices were above average for most vegetables. With average yields next spring, the recommended acreage would produce a slightly larger total vegetable supply.

Last spring, *cantaloup* prices were disappointing as overlapping harvests glutted markets. *Watermelon* growers also suffered from excessive supplies late in the season. The only change in melon acreage suggested for 1963 is a

5 percent cut in *Florida watermelon* plantings. With normal harvest timing next spring, better market conditions should prevail.

The 1962 spring marketing season was highlighted by a record low total acreage of *potatoes* and small potato crops in most States, and, in general, the marketing season was successful. In 1963 we will need more spring crop potatoes. Growers in Alabama, Arizona, California, and Florida are advised to increase plantings by 4 percent. Acreages equal to 1962 are suggested for the other spring States.

This summary only touches high points of the USDA recommendations. For the details, you should see your local Extension agent. Or drop us a card for a free copy of the "Acreage Marketing Guides." Our address is: *Agricultural Situation, AE-MOS, Division of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D.C.*

DECEMBER 1962-MAY 1963 PIG CROP TO BE LARGER THAN LAST YEAR

Reports based on farmers' intentions indicate 7.2 million sows to farrow during the December 1962-May 1963 period. This is 3 percent more than during the same period in 1962, but 7 percent less than the average. If these intentions materialize and the number of pigs per litter should equal the average, with an allowance for trend, the December 1962-May 1963 pig crop would total 51.5 million head, 4 percent more than a year earlier.

Pig Crop—1962

The total pig crop for 1962 is 94.2 million head. This is an increase of 1 percent from 1961 and 4 percent more than the average of 90.8 million head. The 1962 pig crop consists of 49.7 million head for the December 1961-May 1962 period and the June-November 1962 crop of 44.5 million head.

The December 1961-May 1962 pig crop at 49.7 million pigs was 1 percent less than a year earlier. A total of 7.0 million sows farrowed during this period, only slightly less than during 1961. Pigs saved per litter averaged 7.08, compared with 7.18 saved per litter during this period in 1961.

The number of sows farrowing during the June-November period in 1962 at 6.2 million head was 4 percent more than during this period in 1961 and 14 percent more than the average. The number of pigs saved during this period is placed at 44.5 million head, 5 percent more than during this period in 1961 and 19 percent more than the average of 37.4 million head.

Pigs saved per litter during the recent June-November period averaged 7.23, which is a record high for this period. This may be compared with 7.16 a year earlier and the average of 6.88 pigs per litter. All regions of the country show increases during this period as compared with a year earlier.

Selected States

The number of sows intended to farrow in 10 Corn Belt States during the December 1962-May 1963 period is 4 percent more than a year earlier. These 10 States—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas—normally account for about three-fourths of the pig crop.

The December 1 survey indicated more farrowings in both the December-February and March-May periods for 1963. The number of sows expected to farrow during December, January, and February, at 1.9 million head, is 2 percent more than during this period a year earlier. In September farmers in these 10 States reported plans to increase farrowings 4 percent during the December 1962-February 1963 period.

In these States the number of sows farrowed during the June-November period in 1962 totaled 4.7 million head, 4 percent more than during this period a year earlier. Sows farrowed during the June-August period totaled 2.4 million head or 3 percent more than in 1961. The number farrowed during the September-November period totaled 2.3 million head, 6 percent more than for the same period in 1961.

The number of all hogs and pigs on farms December 1 in the 10 Corn Belt States (for which data are available) totaled 48.9 million head, 3 percent more than the 47.3 million on hand a year earlier. The number 6 months old and over declined 2 percent, but the number from 3 to 6 months increased 5 percent, and the number under 3 months of age on December 1 increased 7 percent.

R. M. Pallesen
Statistical Reporting Service



THE 1963 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM



For the third year, producers have an opportunity to continue making needed adjustments in feed grain production by participating in the 1963 voluntary feed grain program.

Sign-up under this year's program begins February 1 at county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASC) offices throughout the feed-producing area. The sign-up period is scheduled to end on March 22.

Basically, the objectives of the 1963 program are the same as for the two previous ones . . . to improve farm income, to balance feed grain supplies with national requirements, and to reduce program costs by pulling down the size of government feed grain stocks.

More than 1.3 million farmers diverted 25 million acres in 1961 and about 31 million in 1962 from feed grain production. By the end of the current marketing year, next October 1, feed grain stocks will be reduced about one-third from the record 84.7 million-ton level of October 1, 1961. Nearly all of this reduction in the national carryover level is coming in government-owned stocks and is substantially reducing price-support storage and carrying costs.

While the 1963 program differs some from the previous programs in its operation, the provisions continue to provide for payments to maintain income to those producers who participate by voluntarily reducing their acreages of corn, grain sorghum, or barley. Participants will again be eligible for price support which will be at a higher level for 1963 than during the 2 previous years.

The total national average support prices will be \$1.25 per bushel for corn, 96 cents per bushel for barley, and \$2

per hundredweight for grain sorghum. These are up from the 1962 and 1961 support prices of \$1.20 per bushel for corn, 93 cents per bushel for barley, and \$1.93 per hundredweight for grain sorghum.

For the 1963 crop, part of the price support will be available as loans and purchase agreements at national average levels of \$1.07 per bushel for corn, 82 cents per bushel for barley and \$1.71 per hundredweight for grain sorghum, and part as payments of 18 cents per bushel for corn, 14 cents per bushel for barley, and 29 cents per hundredweight for grain sorghum paid on the normal production of the farm's feed grain acreage for harvest.

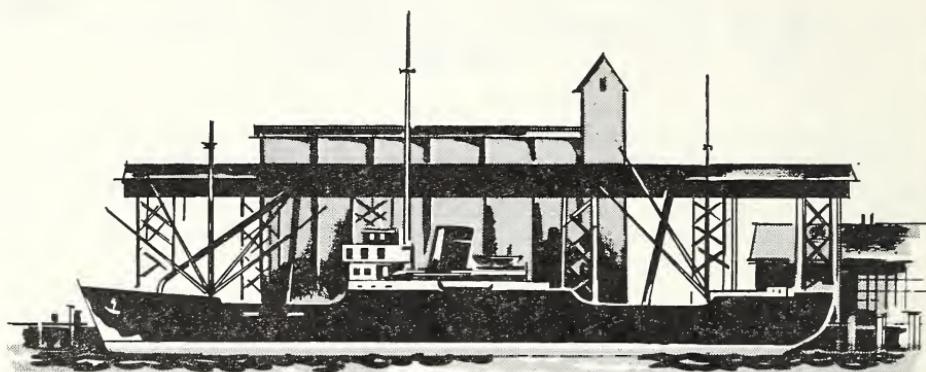
Thus, farmers will receive the benefits of price support at the announced levels, even though they feed all their grain to livestock and poultry, market it, or place it under price support. This is a significant change from past programs under which farmers who participated could get the full benefits of price support only by putting their grain under price-support loan.

The minimum diversion of feed grain acreage to conserving uses is 20 percent of the feed grain base. For this year's program, there is a single feed grain base which includes the corn, barley, and grain sorghum acreage (1959-60 acreage as adjusted) on the farm. Diversion may be from one or all of the feed grains.

For the first 20 percent of acreage diversion, the payment will be at 20 percent of the county support rate reflecting national average support rates, on the normal production of the diverted acres. On any acreage diverted above the minimum, payment will be

(Continued on page 9)

EXPORT PROSPECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1962-63



The outlook for U.S. agricultural exports in fiscal year 1962-63 has been prepared under the assumption that there will be no major changes in international tensions. The economic impact of recent international developments—while not clear now—likely will result in some strengthening in foreign demand for U.S. farm products. Indications are that U.S. agricultural exports in the year ending June 30, 1963, will not differ greatly from last year's record of \$5.1 billion. Volume will remain firm, nearly equaling the previous year's total.

Among the major developments that probably will contribute to another year of high-level agricultural exports are continued economic growth in the more industrialized countries and record holdings of gold and dollars in many principal importing countries. In addition, the United States will continue its aggressive market promotion program to benefit from increased consumer purchasing power in the leading dollar markets. For the countries lacking sufficient dollars, exports will be made available under U.S. Government-financed export programs. Export assistance, principally through export payments, also will enable certain U.S. products to be competitive pricewise in world markets.

The recent implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of

the European Economic Community may begin to have some adverse effects on U.S. exports during 1962-63. Of particular importance in the CAP is the system of variable import levies put into effect on July 30. These levies are designed to offset the difference between world prices of commodities and desired prices in the Common Market. More than one-fifth of U.S. agricultural exports went to Common Market countries in fiscal year 1961-62.

Dollar sales in 1962-63 are estimated at \$3.4 billion, while sales under Government-financed programs will very likely reach \$1.7 billion. Dollar sales and Government program shipments include exports of some commodities with Government assistance, principally in the form of export payments in cash or in kind. In fiscal year 1961-62, an estimated \$2 billion of the \$5.1 billion U.S. total moved in this way, nearly equally divided between dollar sales and Government-financed programs.

Exports of *animal products* in 1962-63 probably will be about 17 percent above last year's \$627 million. Biggest increases are expected in butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk, and tallow. Increased exportable supplies of *dairy products* have had to be made available for donation, because the traditional exporting countries are offering supplies

at very low prices. Declines are expected in exports of *poultry meat* because of the recent implementation of the EEC import regulations, while shipments of lard will likely be reduced as a result of increased European production and competition. Little overall change is seen in exports of hides and skins and red meat.

Exports of *cotton* are estimated at 5 million bales, slightly more than last year's total of 4.8 million. Present uncertainties, particularly those concerning prices and supplies, are causing foreign importers to buy only for current needs. Also, record foreign production and relatively low prices for foreign supplies are limiting factors for U.S. exports.

Among the *fruits and preparations*, abundant U.S. supplies of canned fruit cocktail, canned peaches, and orange juice at relatively low prices should increase exports.

Exports of *wheat* (including flour) are likely to total 600 million bushels in 1962-63 compared with a record 716 million in the previous year. Increased production has occurred in Western Europe, India, and some other areas which have taken large quantities of U.S. wheat in recent years. Lower exports for dollars will account for most of the overall decrease in exports.

Exports of *feed grains* are expected to be about 1 million metric tons below the record 14 million tons in 1961-62. Increased feed grain production in Western Europe, large quantities of feed wheat available in France and implementation of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy are factors contributing to the prospective decline.

Rice exports in 1962-63 are likely to be moderately above last year's level of 20.4 million bags. Population increases, unfavorable crops in some countries, and modest improvements in the economic status of some countries are expected to stimulate exports. Common Market regulations on rice are not likely to be made final and placed into operation until later in 1963.

Exports of *oilseeds and products* are expected to advance to new records. Soybean exports should expand and exceed last year's record 147 million

bushels as a result of the strong West European demand for protein meal. A sharp rise in demand for soybean oil is estimated to make up for reduced supplies of olive oil in the Mediterranean Basin.

Tobacco exports in 1962-63 are likely to approximate 510 million pounds (export weight) compared with 520 million in the previous year. Large inventories of U.S. tobaccos are available in several importing countries, especially in the Common Market. The use of tobacco in the United Kingdom, the most important overseas market, has dropped following the intensive anti-tobacco campaign of early 1962. In addition, large tobacco supplies are available for export from competing countries.

Exports of *vegetables and preparations* are likely to show a moderate gain in 1962-63. Smaller stocks of dried peas and dried beans in Europe and declines in production should encourage U.S. exports.

Robert L. Tontz
Economic Research Service

NEW FOREIGN AGRICULTURE WEEKLY

Starting January 7, the Foreign Agricultural Service is publishing a new weekly magazine, *Foreign Agriculture*. Aimed especially at the U.S. producer and trader, the new weekly reports and interprets news on foreign agricultural production, U.S. market development programs abroad, and international government policies and programs affecting U.S. farm trade.

The only U.S. magazine devoted to foreign agriculture, the new weekly combines two U.S.D.A. periodicals, *Foreign Agriculture*, a 26-year-old monthly, and *Foreign Crops and Markets*, 43-year-old weekly commodity report.

To subscribe, write to the *Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.* Yearly rate is \$5.50, with an additional charge of \$2.50 for foreign mailing. Single copies are 15 cents.

outlook



COTTON

Cotton disappearance during the current season is expected to be the smallest since 1958-59, because of a decline in mill consumption. Exports probably will total about the same as last season's level. Cotton carryover, on last August 1, totaled 7.8 million bales, about 600,000 more than on August 1, 1961. Carryover then was the smallest since 1953. A further increase in carryover is expected during the 1962-63 season. Ending stocks next August 1 probably will be over a million bales larger than beginning stocks.



DAIRY

Milk production, during the first quarter of 1963, likely will be above a year earlier. Prices farmers receive for wholesale milk this quarter are expected to be about 15 cents lower, per 100 pounds, than a year ago. CCC purchases in 1962 amounted to about 10.5 billion pounds of milk equivalent, compared with 7.9 billion in 1961.

FATS AND OILS

Supplies of food fats and oils in the 1962-63 marketing year (begun last October 1) are placed at a record 16.6

billion pounds, in terms of oil. This is about 5 percent more than the peak quantity available last year. Total disappearance is expected to rise about 6 percent to a new high, with record exports accounting for nearly all of the increase. There may be a slight reduction in carryover stocks next October 1 from last year's level.



FRUIT

Supplies of fresh pears and grapes are expected to be somewhat larger this winter than last. Supplies of apples may not be greatly different from a year earlier, but lemon supplies may be smaller. Supplies of fresh oranges and grapefruit are uncertain until effects of the December freeze in Florida are finally evaluated. But supplies of California oranges are expected to be larger than last winter.



TOBACCO

U.S. cigarette output in 1962 is estimated at 537 billion, 9 billion cigarettes more than in 1961. U.S. smokers used an estimated 510 billion cigarettes last year. Exports of leaf tobacco in the

current fiscal year are likely to decline from the 1961-62 level. The decline is attributed to the poor quality of a considerable portion of the 1962 flue-cured crop and increased competition from foreign producing areas.

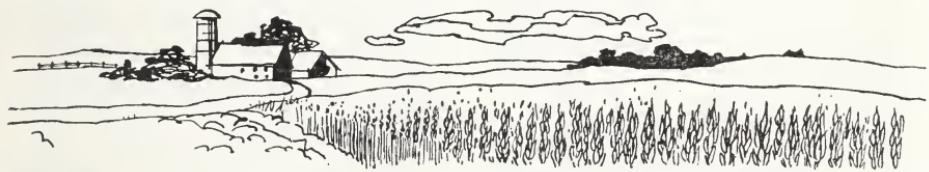


VEGETABLES

Supplies of canned vegetables available into mid-1963 probably will be substantially larger than a year earlier. Supplies of frozen vegetables are expected to be near those of last season.

FEED GRAINS

Carryover of feed grains into 1962-63 totaled 71 million tons, 14 million less than a year earlier. The total supply for this crop year, 215 million tons, was



1963 FEED PROGRAM—Con.

at 50 percent of the county support rate. Maximum diversion is 40 percent of the base acreage or 25 acres, whichever is higher. The rate will be based on the support price for the feed grain diverted.

Special provisions are made for payments to small farms. In addition, under certain conditions when no corn, barley, or grain sorghum is planted on a farm, having a feed grain base in 1963, the entire diversion payment is figured on 50 percent of the county support rate.

In another change from the 1962 program, farmers, to be eligible for any payments or price support on any of the

down 5 percent. Total feed grain utilization in 1962-63 is expected to be about equal to the 1961-62 record level. If so it would reduce the carryover, at the close of 1962-63, to below 60 million tons.

WHEAT

Our wheat exports are continuing to run below the record level of a year earlier. They are expected to total 600 million bushels for this marketing year, or 15 percent below 1961-62.



EGGS

Egg prices during the next few months are likely to continue averaging close to a year earlier.

three feed grains, must divert the total acreage signed up.

Payments will be made through payment-in-kind certificates. These certificates may be redeemed in feed grains from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks or cash will be paid and the CCC will assist in marketing the feed grains covered by the certificates.

Farmers may receive a part of their acreage diversion payment at the time they sign up to participate in the program. Remainder of the diversion payment and all of the price-support payment will be made after compliance is checked next summer.

Horace D. Godfrey
Administrator, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service



VACATIONS ON FARMS

Increasing numbers of farm families are finding that paying guests are an added source of income. A vacation farm enterprise can be started in almost any part of the country with little capital investment in addition to an adequate home, if the farm and surrounding area provide scenery and outdoor activities.

In seeking a restful vacation on a farm or ranch, many city families are willing to pay the going rate. In the past they may have had relatives in the country to visit. However, the number of such ties is declining while the urban population is growing rapidly.

What do these families want in the way of housing and sleeping accommodations, in meals, and in outdoor activities? Who are they and what will they pay for such accommodations? The farm family needs to know this when considering the vacation farm as a possible family business. Although little formal study has been made of vacation farms, many general facts are known.

Requirements

Many farms and ranches have the requirements of a vacation farm. These requirements are:

(1) A family that enjoys associating with people and is willing to provide for their comfort and enjoyment.

- (2) Comfortable living and sleeping accommodations.
- (3) Good home cooked meals.
- (4) Ample recreation activities, either on the farm or in the community.
- (5) Prices that are reasonable.

The variation in each of these is as great as the number of farms providing for vacationers.

A most important part of a vacation on a farm is the association with the farm family. This may include everything from family meals to participating in family chores. The farm family must enjoy having visitors around and must expect to spend the time necessary to care for their desires. It is characteristic of successful vacation farms that a large percentage of the guests come back year after year when they discover that farms and ranches provide the kind of a vacation they are looking for.

Usually farm vacationers are looking for a relatively quiet, comfortable place. Comfort in the form of a good bed, adequate heat, lounging areas, a well kept bathroom, and ample outside area to roam around in.

According to a study made for the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission by the Economic Research Service (ORRRC Study Report 11), the user of vacation farms and ranches is

looking for such outdoor recreation as fishing, boating, swimming, riding, hunting, hiking, lawn games, and picnicking. The extent of guest participation is, of course, dependent upon their age, sex, and specific interests. Girls usually are interested in horseback riding, while young children enjoy farm animals. Much of this activity can be provided on the farm as a part of the regular farm routine. All members have an interest in the daily farm chores. Other activities can be provided by commercial enterprises in the community. A community with rolling to hilly topography, with a wide variety of trees and plants, bodies of water, an agreeable climate, and a variety of birds and animals is naturally very appealing.

To qualify as a vacation farm your home may require the purchase of a new mattress or two, considerable paint, improvements to the bathroom, some additional kitchen utensils, improvements in the heating system (where fall and winter attract vacationers) and some outside sports. The farmyard, livestock, crops, woods, ponds, and streams may provide the necessary activities and attractions with some dependence on the community. If farm-work does not fully occupy the family's time probably little or no hired help will be needed.

Board and Rent

Board and rent is usually charged by the week. This includes living and sleeping quarters for the guests, meals, use of the farm facilities for picnics, and fishing and swimming in farm ponds. Charges range from about \$30 to \$45 per week for adults and \$20 to \$30 for children.

The season when vacation farms receive guests varies with demand, availability of family help, climate, and kinds of outdoor recreation. Probably one-half of vacation farms take guests the year around. In the northern States, the season commonly runs from June through September, the available time for vacations for families with school children. Many, however, extend the season beyond this, particularly where hunting and fishing are attractions. In recent years skiing has added to the length of the season.

Advertising is important in acquainting the prospective users with what you have by way of facilities. It is often hard to reach the farm vacationers who might be the most interested. A growing practice is to list with organizations that cover a specific geographic area. Publications containing these listings are circulated to families most likely to seek vacations on farms. Probably most of the guests will come from the larger cities within a day's drive. However, if advertising is more widespread, guests will come from greater distances to see that part of the country.

Insurance

Accident risks are relatively high on farms, particularly where such activities as swimming, hunting, skiing, and use of horses or other animals are provided. This points up the need for personal liability insurance.

For certain activities State and local governments require permits and have a variety of health and safety regulations. These should be checked and complied with.

There is much satisfaction that can be gained from operating a vacation farm enterprise. For those who enjoy associating with people and catering to their desires, an additional source of income can be provided the farm family. Generally the costs of providing the housing, cooking, and recreation activities are not substantially beyond that of the farm and home. This is an enterprise that the farmer can expand as he makes new contacts.

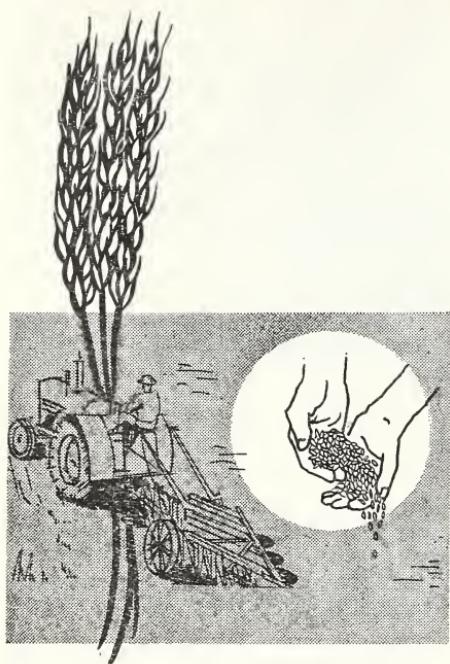
Buis T. Inman
Economic Research Service



The Farmer's Share

In October 1962, the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 39 cents, the same as it was in September. In October 1961, the farmer's share was 38 cents.

INCREASE IN WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS



Winter Wheat

This past fall, farmers seeded 42 million acres of winter wheat, 9 percent more than they did in the fall of 1961 when acreage allotments were reduced by the 1962 Wheat Stabilization Program. However, seedings were 9 percent below the 1952-61 average.

Conditions as of December 1 point to a winter wheat crop of 1,028 million bushels. A crop of this size would be 26 percent larger than the 1962 crop and about 12 percent larger than average.

Indications point to a yield of 24.5 bushels per seeded acre. This is substantially above the 1962 yield of 21.2 bushels and the 1952-61 average yield of 20.2 bushels.

The final outturn of the crop will be largely influenced by weather between December 1 and harvest, as well as damage from insects and disease and farmer compliance with acreage diversion plans under the 1963 program.

The production forecast assumes that the natural factors will approximate the normal for the remainder of the crop season.

Current conditions indicate that 7.5 percent of the acreage seeded for all purposes will not be harvested for grain. Actually, 13.2 percent was not harvested in 1962.

The crop was planted under acreage allotments and marketing quotas. The all wheat national allotment is 55 million acres, the same as that prevailing in most years prior to the 1962 crop. The fall sign-up for voluntary participation in the 1963-crop wheat program ended December 14, and preliminary returns put the acreage to be diverted at 5.2 million acres. By the announcement date of the 1963 program, many growers in the important Plains States, with the relatively early seeding season, had completed seedings of allotment acreage before learning the provisions of the voluntary diversion program. The full extent to which producers will avail themselves of the voluntary diversion provisions of the program is not known at this time. Last fall the Department estimated that a total of 7 million acres might be diverted and that production might total 1,225 million bushels. A crop this size would about equal expected disappearance in 1963-64, and stocks on July 1, 1964, might show little change from that anticipated at the end of the current year.

Rye

Farmers seeded 4.4 million acres of rye for all purposes last fall. This acreage for the 1963 crop was down 10 percent from the 1961 fall seedings but 6 percent above average.

The condition of rye on December 1 reflected generally good growing conditions. At 92 percent, it was 3 points above December 1, 1961, and 9 points above the average.

William R. Askew
Economic Research Service

TUNG OIL IN SHORT SUPPLY

The 1962 tung nut crop is placed at 21,800 tons, only one-fifth as large as a year earlier and the smallest crop since 1955. A late freeze following the bloom sharply reduced the crop in all the major producing States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. A crop this size will yield around 6 million pounds of tung oil compared with 33 million last year and the record 45 million pounds in 1958-59.

Carryover stocks of tung oil, on November 1, 1962, were nearly 13 million pounds. Imports of tung oil during 1962-63, mainly from Argentina, are forecast at about 20 million pounds compared with 17 million last year. These estimates indicate that total domestic supplies of tung oil will be around 39 million pounds, 19 million less than the year before and the smallest since the oil short days of World War II.

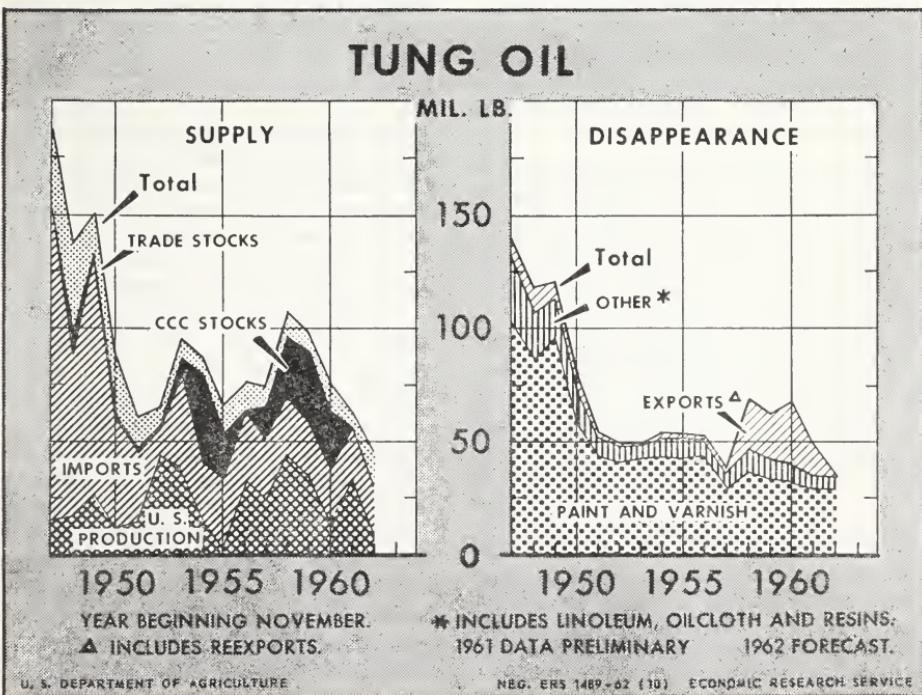
Domestic use of tung oil in 1962-63 is forecast at around 33 million pounds. Sharply reduced supplies of tung oil

along with high prices will encourage drying oil users (manufacturers of paints, varnishes, lacquers, resins, linoleum, insulation, and oil cloth) to shift to lower-priced substitutes where possible.

A tight world supply situation is ahead for 1963 because Red China, a major but elusive factor in the tung oil supply picture, is expected to ship to the world market at the reduced level of the past few years. Also, world stocks of tung oil are at a low level. On balance, it appears there will be a world deficit as related to probable requirements.

Current prices of tung oil are the highest since the spring of 1952. Due to the tight supply situation, prices during 1963 likely will continue strong, probably averaging their present high level of around 40 cents per pound, up about 5 cents from last year.

George W. Kromer
Economic Research Service



COMMERCIAL APPLE PRODUCTION FOR 1962 . . . By Varieties

Production of *summer varieties* of apples in the United States during 1962 amounted to 5.2 million bushels or 4 percent of total commercial production. Only one variety, Gravenstein (95 percent of which come from California) is considered important enough on the national level to be reported upon separately by the Statistical Reporting Service.

Fall Varieties

Among the fall varieties, only three of which are reported separately, the Jonathan variety accounted for two-thirds of total fall production and ranked fifth among all varieties. Fall varieties accounted for 10 percent of the total 1962 harvest.

Winter Varieties

Winter varieties accounted for 86 percent of the 1962 commercial apple production. The Nation's four leading varieties are among the winter varieties—Delicious, McIntosh, Rome Beauty, and Golden Delicious. The first two of these have held their first and second positions in the apple variety production picture for many years and have been increasing in relative importance in recent years.

In 1962, the Delicious harvest was a record 28.8 million bushels—up 20 percent from the short 1961 crop. It accounted for nearly one-fourth of all apples harvested in 1962. Combined production of McIntosh at 16.6 million bushels and Rome Beauty at 9.2 million bushels made up another fifth of the total harvest. Rome Beauty production has increased steadily in recent years.

This past year Golden Delicious rose to the position of fourth most important variety, displacing Jonathan and even surpassing Winesap. Production of Golden Delicious has increased steadily over the past 10 years in all regions of the country and especially in Western States. The 1962 harvest of 9.0 million bushels was up 14 percent from 1961 and was nearly double the 10-year average. Production of Wine-

sap apples has declined sharply in the past five years, and the 7.3 million bushel crop in 1962, though still ranking sixth, was 40 percent below the 1957 output of 12.1 million bushels. Winesap production usually ranked third until 1960.

In 1962 the five leading commercial apple producing States in the order of their importance, together with their production, and the three leading varieties produced in each State were as follows:

(1) *Washington*, 22.0 million bushels (Delicious, Winesap, and Golden Delicious).

(2) *New York*, 20.0 million bushels (McIntosh, R. I. Greening, and Cortland).

(3) *Michigan*, 12.0 million bushels (Jonathan, McIntosh, and Delicious).

(4) *California*, 10.3 million bushels (Yellow New Town or Albermarle Pipin, Gravenstein, and Delicious).

(5) *Virginia*, 9.8 million bushels (York Imperial, Delicious, and Stayman).

These five States accounted for 61 percent of the 1962 apple crop.

The commercial apple production for 1962 totaled 121.4 million bushels, down 5.3 million or 4 percent from the previous year's large crop but 10 percent above the 10-year average. A 5.5 million bushel increase in Western States was more than offset by lower production in important Central and Eastern States. Production in Washington was up the sharpest with a 5.1 million bushel or 30 percent increase over the short crop in that State last year.

Michigan showed the sharpest decline, percentagewise, 25 percent, although "bushelwise" New York was down more, amounting to 17 percent of their large 1961 crop. Pennsylvania had 11 percent fewer bushels, and Wisconsin, 22 percent fewer.

Coyle H. Whitworth
Statistical Reporting Service

Meet the State Statistician . . .



Tom Stuart is a quiet man, a son of the Piedmont region of North Carolina. Today he is the Statistician in Charge of the State office in Richmond, Va.

"I'm still pretty close to home," says Stuart, perhaps thinking of the general farm in Alamance County, N.C. where he grew up. He is still pretty close to home in another way, too. His life, even in the service, has always had to do with the land and with the numbers and statistics that apply to the land.

Depression years were on the wane when he was graduated from North Carolina State College in Raleigh with a degree in agricultural economics. The year was 1936, a year in which the \$50 a month income of a graduate student was an argument in itself for higher education. His course work was completed that year, but it was 1939 before he received a master's degree in agricultural economics and a permanent appointment in the office of the North Carolina State statistician, where he had been working for 2 years. It was during this period that he met and married the former Mary Dempsey of Wilmington, N.C.

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Stuart was transferred to Washington, D.C., and within a year he was in uniform, a computer with the topographic engineers. In the South Pacific the combat mission of his outfit was to sharpen

THOMAS L. STUART

the accuracy of various artillery batteries in situations of particular urgency.

When Stuart returned to the States in 1946, he was attracted to the job of second man in charge in the Alabama State statistician's office where he worked until 1952 when he became second man in charge in Virginia. Virginia State statistician, Henry M. Taylor, who in 1919 had moved the State office from Clarendon to Richmond in his Model T Ford, retired in 1957 and Stuart took the helm.

As chief processor of Virginia's agricultural statistics, Stuart has this to say about his State. "We have a little of everything in Virginia. The State's agricultural economy is about 45 percent crop and 55 percent livestock. Dairy is number one, tobacco—second, poultry (including broilers, eggs, and turkeys)—third, and beef—fourth in economic significance. Other important farm income contributors are peanuts, hogs, soybeans, apples, and commercial vegetables."

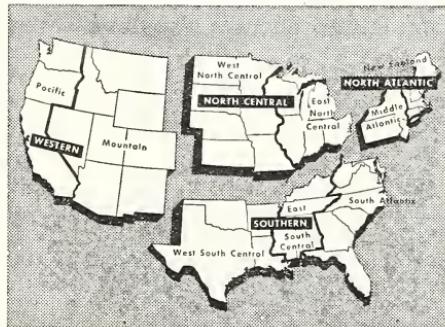
As a matter of interest, Stuart notes that the farm of John Rolfe (of Jamestown and Pocahontas fame—one of the first white men to cultivate tobacco) is being operated today by a long-time crop reporting family, the Stonemans of Henrico County. The place is called Varina Farms.

Virginia farm facts and lore interest Stuart, as well as keep him busy. His job, plus his 15 year old daughter, Carol, and his home and yard make it, as he puts it, "pretty hard for a man to play golf on the weekends."

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